

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

A synthetic peptide from the Col1 region (N'-ICESCPTGGQNYSP-C' (SEQ ID NO: 12)) has been used to raise antibodies that are claimed to be directed against intact PIIINP and that appear not to crossreact with monomeric PIIINP forms (EP 0298210A2 by Brocks and Timpl, 1988). Later, the same authors have published that the antibodies directed against this peptide do not recognize human PIIINP (Brocks *et al.*, 1993).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The generation of antibodies against the synthetic oligopeptide fragment (N'-ICESCPTGGQNYSP-C' (SEQ ID NO: 12)) has been the subject of EP 0298210A2 by Brocks and Timpl, 1988. Antibodies recognizing this antigen were claimed to recognize intact PIIINP in rodent sera as well. However, the antibodies were not crossreactive with human PIIINP (Brocks *et al.*, 1993).

Please replace Table 1, beginning on page 29, line 1 with the following amended Table 1:

Table 1

Primer Sequences

hP5 (template extending from secretion sequence to telopeptide region)

P1 and P5

P1: 5'- CGCG GGT ACC AAG GGG AGC TGG CTA CTT CTC -3' ([SEQ ID NO:3](#))

P5: 5'- CGCG AAG CTT AGG ATA GCC TGC GAG TCC TCC -3' ([SEQ ID NO:7](#))

4.5.2 (entire cDNA sequence)

P3 and P14

P3: 5'- CGCG GGT ACC CAG GAA GCT GTT GAA GGA GGA -3' ([SEQ ID NO:6](#))

P 14: 5'- CGCG AAG CTT GGG AGA ATA GTT CTG AGG AC -3' ([SEQ ID NO:13](#))

Clone6 (N-terminal deletion of 30 aa C-terminally adjacent to secretion leader sequence)

P[[P]]11-2 and P14

P11-2: 5'- CGCG CTG CAG TGT GAC TCA GGA TCC GTT CT-3' ([SEQ ID NO:4](#))

P14: 5'- CGCG AAG CTT GGG AGA ATA GTT CTG AGG AC -3' ([SEQ ID NO:13](#))

2.8.6 (C-terminal deletion of 21 aa N-terminally adjacent to N-proteinase cleavage site)

P3 and P12

P3: 5'- CGCG GGT ACC CAG GAA GCT GTT GAA GGA GGA -3' ([SEQ ID NO:6](#))

P12: 5'- CGCG AAG CTT AGG GGA CCC TGG TTG TCC T -3' ([SEQ ID NO: 5](#))

Please replace Table 2, beginning on page 30, line 1 with the following amended Table 2:

Table 2

PIIINP 4.5.2 Met-Arg-Gly-Ser-His-His-His-His-His-His-Gly-Ser-Ala-Cys-Glu-Leu-Gly-Thr-Gln-Glu-Ala-Val-Glu-Gly-Gly... (SEQ ID NO:8)

PIIINP 2.8.6 Met-Arg-Gly-Ser-His-His-His-His-His-His-Gly-Ser-(Ala)-(Cys)-Glu-Leu-Gly-Thr-Gln-Glu-Ala-(Val)-Glu-Gly... (SEQ ID NO:9)

PIIINP clone6 Met-Arg-Gly-Ser-His-His-His-His-His-His-Thr-Asp-Pro-His-Ala-Ser-Ser-Val-Pro-Arg-Val-Asp-Leu-Gln... (SEQ ID NO:10)